

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING LAWNS NEED LIME, NOT FERTILIZER

Herndon, VA (March 14, 2006) – Contrary to popular practice, spring is not the time to fertilize lawns. “Fertilization in spring causes blades to grow at the expense of developing roots,” said John Dudzinsky, community forester for the Town of Herndon. “This can lead to disease and insect problems later in the season, as well as a need to mow more frequently.”

According to Dudzinsky, autumn is the best time to fertilize, when the roots that will sustain plants through the following year are actively growing. “Spring fertilization should be limited to a light feeding – a half pound of 10-10-10 per square feet -- after the initial flush of spring lawn growth has subsided in May or June,” he said.

Lime, on the other hand, should be applied in early spring if soil tests show it is necessary. “Most lawns grow best at a soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0,” Dudzinsky said.

Soil testing kits may be obtained from all Fairfax County public libraries or from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office in the Government Center. There is a small fee for soil analyses. Soil test reports provide recommendations on how much lime to apply as well as how much fertilizer to apply in the fall; applying too much fertilizer or spillage on sidewalks or driveways can cause stream pollution.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 22,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of

Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town's website at www.herndon-va.gov.

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